

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 H-01 SAM-01

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P 130930Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3260

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA UNN

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 170

FOR STATE AND AID; CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, MZ, RO, SW

SUBJECT: PL 480 TITLE I WHEAT FOR MOZAMBIQUE

REF: (A) STATE 30750 (NOTAL); (B) LOURENCO MARQUES 148 (NOTAL);

C) STATE 27979 (NOTAL);(D) BUCHAREST 529 (NOTAL)

1. SECRETARY GENERAL AGUIAR (REF B) TOLD ME YESTERDAY EVENING
(FEB. 12) THAT HE HAD SPOKEN TO PRIME MINISTER CHISSANO CONCERNING
MOZAMBIQUE'S NEEDS FOR PL 480 TITLE I WHEAT ON NORMAL TERMS
MENTIONED REF C. PRIME MINISTER REPLIED THAT HE WAS GRATEFUL
FOR U.S. INTEREST BUT THAT MOZAMBIQUE'S WHEAT NEEDS FOR THIS
YEAR WOULD BE SATISFIED BY 16,000 TON COMMERCIAL SHIPMENT
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FROM U.S., 20,000 TONS SWEDISH WHEAT (AND OTHER SIMILAR OFFERS

OF A MINOR NATURE) AND THE REMAINDER (I.E., THE BULK) BY AN ARRANGEMENT WITH ROMANIA WHICH HAD BEEN CONCLUDED. THE SECRETARY GENERAL EXPLAINED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WAS AWARE THAT THE WHEAT PROVIDED BY ROMANIA WOULD NOT BE OF ROMANIAN ORIGIN. (NOTE THAT THIS CONFLICTS WITH STATEMENT IN REF D BY HEAD OF "AGRO-EXPORT" THAT ROMANIA WOULD BE DISPOSED TO SUPPLY WHEAT FROM ITS 1975 CROP, PROVIDED THAT PRODUCTION ALLOWED FOR EXPORTS WHICH WOULD NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL APRIL OR LATER.)

2. I REPLIED TO SECRETARY GENERAL THAT FACTS CONCERNING ROMANIA'S COMMITMENT TO SUPPLY REMAINDER OF MOZAMBIQUE'S WHEAT NEEDS DID NOT CONFORM TO OUR INFORMATION. I STATED, HOWEVER, THAT ALTHOUGH I HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS ON THE MATTER, IN MY PERSONAL OPINION IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO INTERJECT ITSELF INTO THIS APPARENTLY CONTRADICTORY SITUATION. THIS WAS A MATTER BETWEEN THE MOZAMBIQUE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT (MTG) AND ROMANIA. SECRETARY AGUIAR EXPRESSED FULL AGREEMENT.

3. AGUIAR THEN STATED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR U.S. SURPLUS FOOD FUNDS TO BE USED TO FINANCE RETROACTIVELY THE PURCHASE OF THE 16,000 TONS OF U.S. WHEAT WHICH THEY HAD ORIGINALLY ASKED US TO FUND. REPLIED I WAS NOT AN EXPERT BUT WAS SURE THAT ANSWER WAS "NO", SINCE U.S. PL 480 FOODSTUFFS CAME FROM U.S. GOVERNMENT RESERVES AND THERE WAS NO WAY UNDER THE LAW THAT PRIVATE COMMERCIAL PURCHASES COULD BE FINANCED RETROACTIVELY. AGUIAR SAID THAT HE THOUGHT PRIME MINISTER CHISSANO REALIZED THE DIFFICULTY OF SUCH AN OPERATION BUT WAS SIMPLY ASKING IN CASE THERE WERE AND LOOPHOLE.

4. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT THE MTG IS CALCULATING AS FOLLOWS: IN EARLY MARCH 16,000 TONS OF U.S. COMMERCIAL WHEAT WILL ARRIVE WHICH WILL MEET NEEDS THROUGH APRIL; IN MAY THE 20,000 TONS FROM SWEDEN WILL ARRIVE WHICH WILL MEET NEEDS INTO JULY; FROM JULY ON, MTG BELIEVES ROMANIA IS COMMITTED TO SUPPLY THE REMAINDER (WHICH WOULD AMOUNT TO BETWEEN 40,000 AND 50,000 TONS). I MADE CLEAR THAT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF ANY U.S. PL 480 TITLE I WHEAT BEING AVAILABLE AGAIN UNTIL ABOUT THIS TIME NEXT YEAR. WHILE MAKING NO "OFFER", I BELIEVE
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MY REPRESENTATIONS HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR THAT THE USG HAS MADE A RESPONSIVE GESTURE TOWARDS FRELIMO-LED MTG AND IT IS NOW A MATTER OF SEEING WHETHER ROMANIA CAN DELIVER ON ITS ALLEGED PROMISES.
WALKER

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